AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The gating module of claim 1~~ A gating module for gating an image intensifier tube, the gating module comprising:

a frequency generator generating a base signal having a base frequency;

a modulator for spread-spectrum modulating said base frequency of said base signal to generate a modulated signal; and

a gating circuit coupled to said modulator, said gating circuit generating a gating signal in response to said modulated signal;

wherein said gating circuit is a one-shot.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for viewing an object under low light conditions, the system comprising:

an image intensifier tube generating an image of said object;

a power supply providing power to said image intensifier tube;

a gating module coupled to said power supply, said gating module generating a spread-spectrum modulated gating signal to said power supply to provide gated power to said image intensifier tube;

wherein said gating module includes:

a frequency generator generating a base signal having a base frequency;

a modulator for spread-spectrum modulating said base frequency of said base signal to generate a modulated signal; and

a gating circuit coupled to said modulator, said gating circuit generating said gating signal in response to said modulated signal.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein:

said image intensifier tube includes a sensor, a microchannel plate and an anode.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein:

said sensor is a photocathode sensor.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 9 wherein:

said frequency generator and said modulator are implemented by an oscillator.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

said oscillator includes a first resistor establishing said base frequency.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein:

said oscillator includes a second resistor coupled to a modulation pin of said oscillator, said second resistor establishing a percent of modulation of said base frequency.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein:

said oscillator includes a switch connecting said modulation input to ground, closure of said switch deactivating said modulating said base frequency.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

said oscillator is a band-limited random noise generator.

18. (Currently Amended) The gating module of claim ~~12~~ 9 wherein:

said modulator is a pseudorandom sequence generator.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 9 wherein:

said gating circuit is a one-shot.

20. (Original) A method for gating an image intensifier tube, the method comprising:

generating a base signal having a base frequency;

spread-spectrum modulating said base frequency of said base signal to generate a modulated signal;

generating a gating signal in response to said modulated signal; and

applying said gating signal to said image intensifier tube.